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Philip Morrison, *Chairman* · Herbert Scoville, Jr., *Secretary* · Jerome D. Frank, *Vice-Chairman* · Herbert F. York, *Treasurer* · Jeremy J. Stone, *Director*

October 7, 1975

IR 75-9044/2

[redacted]
Office of General Counsel
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear [redacted]

Enclosed is a copy of a letter sent to the Postmaster General Mr. Cotter who, as is known in public records of the Rockefeller Commission on the CIA, relayed it to CIA Director Helms. In due course, it led to an end to the illegal mail opening procedures of the CIA. We send it to you for explanation as to why our request for all documents in our file did not turn up this document. Adding to other weighty circumstantial evidence, it seems to suggest that the search procedures being relied upon by CIA to respond to FOA requests are inadequate.

Sincerely,

P. Morrison

Philip Morrison

PM/k

National Council Members (Elected)

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FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS
307 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002 (202) 546-3300

Philip Morrison, *Chairman*; Herbert Scoville, Jr., *Secretary*; *Christian B. Anfinsen, *Vice-Chairman*; Herbert F. York, *Treasurer*; Jeremy J. Stone, *Director*

January 13, 1971

Mr. W. J. Cotter
Chief Postal Inspector
U.S. Post Office
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cotter:

The Federation of American Scientists is engaged in a preliminary investigation of the problem of mail covers with a view to appropriate legislation if any is required. A search of the literature, and examination of the postal manuals, gives rise to the following questions:

1) Are there any circumstances in which the Postal Service permits the opening of first class mail, domestic or foreign, without the consent of the addressee and without a court warrant by any Government agency whatsoever?

2) Does the Postal Service permit any Governmental Agency whatsoever to read, or try to read, the contents of first class mail without "breaking the seal" upon it possibly through the use of technological aids of various kinds.

3) As part of mail cover, would the Postal Service permit a search for fingerprints on the outside of a first-class letter.

4) Has the Post Office ever discovered efforts by State or Federal Agencies to corrupt Postal Officials to violate mail cover regulations by inducing them to open first class mail, or to lend it to other agencies, for the purpose of obtaining the information contained therein?

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Laureates

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We wonder if the Post Office would be willing to answer these questions for us, either in writing or in an interview with a Postal official set up at his convenience. The Federation is acting in this matter as a lobbyist in the public interest, and it would welcome whatever cooperation could be provided. We recognize, I might add, at the Post Office has a generally good record in many aspects of the privacy issues that concern us.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jeremy J. Stone
Director

JJS:dc

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SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM

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OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	Mr. Evans	16 Oct	
2			
3	AO/DCI		
4			
5			
6			

	ACTION		DIRECT REPLY		PREPARE REPLY
	APPROVAL		DISPATCH		RECOMMENDATION
	COMMENT		FILE		RETURN
	CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION		SIGNATURE

Remarks:

We have no record of the 13 Jan 71 letter nor of any 1971 correspondence with the Postal Service on subject. Also checked, with negative results, to see if we had a record of a meeting between Cotter and DCI in 1971.

1 – 3 Per your FOIA request

STAT

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FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER

FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.	DATE
	15 Oct

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FORM NO. 1-67 237 Use previous editions ☆ GPO : 1974 O - 535-857 (40)

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